

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01

SAB-01 ACDA-05 /081 W
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9203

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 0487

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN PRESS COVERAGE OF UNSC DEBATE

REF: USUN 0104

1. LOCAL PRESS JANUARY 14 HIGHLIGHTS UNSC SPEECH PREVIOUS DAY BY EGYPTIAN PERMREP 'ABD AL-MAGID CITED REFTEL. OTHER ARTICLES ON UNSC DEBATE NOT PROMINENTLY FEATURED AND DO NOT MENTION POSSIBILITY OF TWO ARAB RESOLUTIONS, MERELY QUOTING "JORDANIAN SOURCES" THAT THERE IS "GENERAL" AGREEMENT ON SYRIAN WORKING PAPER. ARTICLES GIVE CLEAR IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, THAT CALL BY SYRIAN PERMREP 'ALLAF FOR RENEWED UNSC DEBATE ON ME AFTER "SPECIFIC PERIOD" IS AT VARIANCE WITH EGYPTIAN DESIRE FOR RECONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT.

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ARTICLES MAKE NO MENTION OF POSSIBLE US VETO.

2. EDITORIAL IN USUALLY IMMOEDERATE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
EGYPTIAN GAZETTE (OFTEN BITTERLY CRITICAL OF US POLICY IN ME)
CRITIZES STATEMENT AT OPENING OF UNSC DEBATE
BY CHIEF OF PLO POLITICAL DEPARTMENT QADDUMI,
WHICH DESCRIBED AS STATEMENT OF MAXIMUM BARGAINING POSITION
PRIOR TO EVENTUAL CONCESSIONS. EDITORIAL CRITICIZES
QADDUMI REJECTION OF 242 AND 338 AND URGES PLO MODERATES
TO RECOGNIZE RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO EXIST, THUS FORCING US
INTO RECOGNITION OF PLO. ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO PLO
MODERATION ON RECOGNITION ISSUE, EDITORIAL WARNS, IS ANOTHER
ROUND OF FIGHTING.

3. LOCAL PRESS ALSO REPORTS, IN VERY LOW KEY MANNER,
STATEMENT BY PRES SADAT DURING JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH
CANADIAN MINSTATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SEPTTEL) CONCEDING
THAT "WE ARE READY TO GO AND FIGHT FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF
THE PALESTINIANS AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE...THE FIRST THING
THAT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE MUST START WITH IS THE QUESTION
OF THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PALESTINIANS." ONLY GUMHURIYYA
GIVES ACTUAL QUESTION-AND-ANSWER TEXT OF SADAT STATEMENT, WHILE
OTHER DAILIES SUMMARIZE SADAT COMMENTS. (ALTHOUGH AFP QUOTES
SADAT AS WANTING "INFORMAL" GENEVA DEBATE ON PLO PARTICIPATION,
ARABIC TEXT IN GUMHURIYYA DOES NOT CONTAIN WORD "INFORMAL.")

4. COMMENT: EGYPTIAN PRESS IS SOFT-PEDALLING UNSC DEBATE,
PRESUMABLY BECAUSE GOE UNCERTAIN OF EVENTUAL ARAB DRAFT
RESOLUTION TO BE PRESENTED, WHAT COMPROMISES SYRIANS AND PLO
WILLING TO MAKE, AND WHETHER US WILL EVENTUALLY VETO
WHATEVER DRAFT EMERGES. ARTICLES ALL MATTER-OF-FACT AND
STRESS MODERATE EGYPTIAN ROLE IN DEBATE, INCLUDING
AKHBAR COMMENT THAT 'ABD AL-MAGID CEDED HIS POSITION AS
FIRST SPEAKER TO QADDUMI, BUT CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TREPIDATION
EVIDENT THAT THINGS MAY NOT GO IN DIRECTION EGYPT DESIRES.
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